

This article was published to SaveTheInternet.com on September 20th, 2011 that I agree with. One passage in particular sticks out in this article about Comcast or Comca\$t that could apply to any large cable or telecom company including AT&T. As such will file these comments to the AT&T T-Mobil docket (11-65) after sharing the article in dockets regarding broadband deployment National Broadband Plan, Connect America Fund, Universal Service Fund dockets etc, Open Internet docket (09-191), Broadband Framework Service (10-127) describing negative impact of unregulated broadband providers on consumers etc need for Title II etc.

It's also important to remember that this lower-priced offering came only as the result of Comcast's effort to get its takeover of NBC Universal approved, and is not guaranteed to last. To secure approval for its mega-merger, Comcast made a list of "voluntary commitments," which are essentially unenforceable, and both the commitments and the conditions the FCC and the Department of Justice placed on the merger come with expiration dates. Same could be true for AT&T. When they got to re-merge with SBC Communications and Bell South they were required to comply with Network Neutrality rules for a period of 2-3 years during which they would be forbidden from lobbying against it afterwards if they wanted to they could try to fight against it. This is why AT&T T Mobil should be denied.

If we are truly serious about tackling the digital divide, we cannot rely on the altruism of large providers; we need policies that promote real competition. Competition, not corporate good will, will incentivize Comcast to lower prices across the board. Again this helps justify why such large mergers as Comcast NBCU or AT&T T Mobil should be denied It's too late for Comcast NBCU to be blocked (someday perhaps using Sherman Antitrust Act if Justice has the will to stand up for the public can seek breakup of Comcast from NBCU but at least till the use this as a lesson to stop other mergers) but can use this as a lesson on why mergers like AT&T T Mobil and Qualcomm should be blocked. Now here's the text of the article:

On Tuesday Comcast Executive Vice-President David Cohen and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski, along with D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson and D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, announced a plan to provide low-cost broadband to families eligible for the National School Lunch Program.

Low-cost broadband to low-income families? A welcome gesture, of course, but the entire cable industry, including Comcast, can and should be doing more to ensure all families have access to this critical communications technology.

Access to broadband is just as important to low-income households without children as it is to those with kids. So while this Internet-essentials offering is a better deal than Comcast's standard overpriced service, it's important to remember that it's available only to a small subset of the population that truly needs it.

It's also important to remember that this lower-priced offering came only as the result of Comcast's effort to get its takeover of NBC Universal approved, and is not guaranteed to last. To secure

approval for its mega-merger, Comcast made a list of "voluntary commitments," which are essentially unenforceable, and both the commitments and the conditions the FCC and the Department of Justice placed on the merger come with expiration dates.

If we are truly serious about tackling the digital divide, we cannot rely on the altruism of large providers; we need policies that promote real competition. Competition, not corporate good will, will incentivize Comcast to lower prices across the board.

In 2009, the cable industry announced "Adoption Plus," an initiative that would have offered low-cost broadband service to low-income households "similar to Comcast's current low-cost offering. The plan certainly had flaws, and was not fully baked, but was a potential step toward increasing broadband adoption. But the plan grew out of concern about the National Broadband Plan's potential to encourage regulatory intervention in the cable market to bring America up to speed in the global economy. Once it became clear that the FCC had no appetite to increase broadband competition in order to lower prices, the industry players bagged A-Plus. Why not bring it back, across the entire industry, without the limitations on who can qualify?

Cable Internet providers make a nearly 80-percent profit margin on their service. There's no reason why all providers, including Comcast, can't commit to bringing all Americans affordable Internet access.

Sincerely,

Mr. Maneesh Pangasa
3562 South 18th Avenue
Yuma AZ 85365-3937
(928) 446-8999